The State Government who are primarly responsible for initiating preparedness, and relief measures have formulated their action plans relief manuals which are updated from time to time keeping in view the experiences gained. State level and district level relief committees also exist to review and direct undertaking of various relief activities during the crisis period.

Agricultural Production

4000. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) What new measures have been initiated in the last three months to achieve quantum leap in agricultural production in the country;

(b) the new areas where cultivation is proposed to be started in next one year; and

(c) what new facilities are proposed to be provided to farmers during next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) An Action Plan for Doubling of Food Production and making India Hunger Free in Ten Years under the National Agenda for Governance has been prepared by the Planning Commission. This Action Plan lays emphasis on sustainable use of basic resources such as land, water and fragile eco systems. A mission made approach for accelerating maize production is proposed to supplement the existing research component under the programme. Several measures covering credit, infrastructure development and supply of quality inputs are also on the anvil.

Small Land Holding Cultivation

4001. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any schemes under Governments' consideration to make small land holding cultivation profitable;

(b) if so, what measures are underway; and

(c) the results achieved by implementation of these measures, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Diversification of crop production into more income generating allied activities covering horticulture, animal husbandry, dairying and pisciculture has been the thrust of developmental programmes pursued by the Government. It is proposed to supplement the above efforts by developing infrastructure including agro processing and marketing in feasible rural and Semi urban areas marginal farmers.

Integrated Piggery Development in Maharashtra

4002. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are assisting Maharashtra for Integrated Piggery Development in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; year-wise;

(c) whether the piggery development in the State is satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures being taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A Centrally sponsored scheme "Assistance to States for Integrated Piggery Development" is being implemented by this Ministry to provide 100% Grant-in-aid to assist piggery development in various states. The Ministry has not received any project proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for assistance under this scheme.

(c) and (d) As per the Livestock Census, the number of pigs in Maharashtra has increased between 1982—1992. However, piggery development, according to State Government has not taken a foot hold in the State. The State Government can avail assistance from the Central Government under the Central Government scheme of "Assistance to State for Integrated Piggery Development".

Control of Animal Diseases in Maharashtra

4003. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central funds are being made available to Maharashtra for the control of animal diseases in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; year-wise;

(c) whether any improvement has been noticed in controlling the animal diseases in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central funds released to the State of Maharashtra for the control of animal diseases during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	59.31
1996-97	54.74
1997-98	86.46

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Rinderpest disease, which had last occurred in the State in October, 1993 has been totally eradicated. There has been perceptible improvement in the disease status in terms of number of outbreaks/number of animals dead etc. with regard to economically important diseases like Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Antorax, Black Quarter, Blue Tongue etc. The infrastructural facilities in the State for animal disease control have also been strengthened considerably.

Promotion of Agro-Forestry

4004. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote agro-forestry and orchard units in the country, particularly in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) No specific and exclusive programme is being implemented for the promotion of agro-forestry in the country and particularly in the State of Assam. However, agro-forestry is one of the biological measure being advocated for the development of wastelands depending upon the location of the watersheds. The Indian Council of Aricultural Research is implementing an All India Coordinated Research Project on Agro-forestry in the country. For Assam, this is being implemented through the Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits under which assistance is being provided for increasing the production and productivity of various fruit crops through measures such as supply of quality planting material, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers besides area expansion. The scheme is being implemented in all the States of the country including Assam.

Decline in Kharif Production

4005. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kharif crop production has come down to 103.5 million tonnes against the targeted 105.5 million tonnes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one of the reasons for the decline in the Kharif crop production was on account of low Kharif crop coverage this year which came down by 4.1 per cent; and

(c) what are the strategies being considered to enhance the rabi crop production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The production of Kharif foodgrains for 1997-98 is estimated at 103.7 million tonnes against the target of 105.5 million tonnes.

(b) Decline in Kharif crop production during 1997-98 is largely attributed to lower Kharif crop acreage by 1.6% as compared to 1996-97.

(c) The strategies adopted for increasing the Rabi crop production include the emphasis for timely planting/seeding, increasing the area coverage under high yielding varieties/hybrids, balanced use of fertilisers, ensuring irrigation